

にほんご にゅうもんへん
オンライン日本語 入門編

Online Japanese for Beginners

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第 1 1 課

Lesson11

ちょうおん はつおん そくおん ようおん

長音、撥音、促音、拗音、アクセント

Long Vowels, Sound of ん, Double Consonant っ,
Contracted sound, Accent

ちょうおん

I. 長音

Long Vowels

Long vowels are sounds that you hold out longer than normal. You can extend all the Japanese vowels “あ”, “い”, “う”, “え”, “お”.

おかあさん	mother
おとうさん	father
おにいさん	elder brother
おおきい	big
カード	card
エレベーター	elevator

Please note that, in Japanese, the meaning of the word can change depending upon the long vowels.

Example: おばあさん grandmother おばさん aunt
おじいさん grandfather おじさん uncle
こうとう advanced こと thing

Writing of hiragana long vowels:

1. For the hiragana of あ Column, い Column and う Column, you write the same vowel after the first one.

For example: おかあさん
 おとうさん
 ゆうがた

2. For the hiragana of え Column, the long vowel is written with the hiragana “い”.

For example: へいき
 ていねい
 せいじ

Note: there are a few exceptions for the long vowel of え Column.

Example: ええ、ねえ、おねえさん

3. For the long vowel of the お Column, the long vowel is written with the hiragana “う”.

For example: とうき
 ぎんこう
 そうぞう

Note: there are a few exceptions for the long vowel of お Column.

For example: おおきい、おおい、こおる

Writing of katakana long vowels:

The way to write katakana long vowel sounds are very easy. A long vowel in katakana just consists of drawing a "dash" mark.

For example: カード
 スーパ—
 ノート

はっおん
II. 撥音「ん」

Sound of ん

Next is the nasal consonant. The nasal consonant is the sound of “ん”. The ん sound always follows a hiragana or katakana character. There are no words that begin with “ん”.

The pronunciation changes of the ん sound:

1. When used before the た Row, だ Row, ら Row and な Row, it sounds like “n”.

どんどん	dondon	rapidly
きんりん	kinrin	neighborhood
みんな	minna	everyone

2. When used before the ば Row, ぱ Row, and ま Row, it sounds like “m”.
“しんばし”, “しんぴ”.

しんばし	shimbashi	Shimbashi station
しんぴ	shimpi	mystery

3. Before the か Row and が Row, it sounds like "ng". “たんき”, “かんがえ”.

たんき	tanki	short-term
かんがえ	kangae	thought

Ⅲ. ^{そくおん}促音 っ

Double Consonant っ

The double consonant is written as a small “っ”. It is the same in katakana, “っ” ⇒ “ツ”. The double consonant is 1 beat, and basically it is used in the middle of 3 beats.

The double consonant is placed before the か Row, さ Row, た Row, and ぱ Row. There are some rules for its pronunciation:

1. When “っ” is placed before the か Row, please pronounce it like a “k”.

For example:

いっかい	ikkai	1st floor
がっき	gakki	term
はっけん	hakken	discovery
いっこ	ikko	one piece

2. When “っ” is placed before the ぱ Row, please pronounce it like a “p”.

For example:

いっぱい	ippai	one glass
いっぴき	ippiki	one animal
きっぷ	kippu	ticket
しっぽ	sippo	tail

3. When “っ” is placed before the さ Row and た Row, please pronounce it like an “s” for the さ Row and like a “t” for the た Row.

For example:

いっさい	issai	one year old
ざっし	zasshi	magazine
さっそく	sassoku	immediately
きって	kitte	stamp

IV. 拗音ようおん

Contracted sound

The sound represented by using small “や”, “ゆ”, “よ” are called contracted sound. It consists of two letters, but its sound is only one mora long. The sounds from the い Column can be connected with the “や”, “ゆ”, “よ”. The sounds from the い Column are “き”, “し”, “ち”, “に”, “ひ”, “み”, “り”, “ぎ”, “じ”, “び”, “ぴ”.

<small>よう おん</small> 拗音 (Contracted sound)							
		や	ya	ゆ	yu	よ	yo
き	ki	きゃ	kya	きゅ	kyu	きょ	kyo
ぎ	gi	ぎゃ	gya	ぎゅ	gyu	ぎょ	gyo
し	shi	しゃ	sha	しゅ	shu	しょ	sho
ち	chi	ちゃ	cha	ちゅ	chu	ちょ	cho
じ/ぢ	ji	じゃ/ぢゃ	ja	じゅ/ぢゅ	ju	じょ/ぢょ	jo
に	ni	にゃ	nya	にゅ	nyu	にょ	nyo
ひ	hi	ひゃ	hya	ひゅ	hyu	ひょ	hyo
び	bi	びゃ	bya	びゅ	byu	びょ	byo
ぴ	pi	ぴゃ	pya	ぴゅ	pyu	ぴょ	pyo
み	mi	みゃ	mya	みゅ	myu	みょ	myo
り	ri	りゃ	rya	りゅ	ryu	りょ	ryo

For katakana, draw a small katakana “ヤ”, “ユ”, and “ヨ”.

たんご
単語

Words

おきゃく	okyaku	guest
しゅみ	shumi	interest
じゃま	jama	to interrupt
おちゃ	ocha	tea

V. アクセント

Accent

In Japanese words, there are some fixed accents. Depending upon the accent, the meaning of the word changes, and represents a person's tone and their emotional changes.

4 different types of accents:

1. The first syllable is high and then gradually turns into a low accent.

1. High in the beginning, low after it.

High → Low

たぶん	tabun	perhaps
もし	moshi	if
たしか	tashika	exacttea

2. First is low, next part is high, and then by the end of the word, it becomes a low accent.

2. Low in the beginning, high after it, low in the end.

Low → High → Low

たまご	tamago	egg
せんせい	sensei	teacher

3. The beginning is low, and then continues to become high.

3. Low in the beginning, the tone becomes higher after beginning.

Low → High

おとこ	otoko	man
はな	hana	flower
やすみ	yasumi	rest

4. The sound remains the same high tone.

4.Flat in tone.

Flat

にほんご	nihongo	Japanese
おしえる	oshieru	to teach
かう	kau	to buy

For example:

あめ

じしん